

# Your Voice

Let me hear from you!

## Upcoming Meetings

### June 25, 2001

Guest: King County  
Exec. Ron Sims  
Highline Community  
College, Building 2  
S. 240th & Pacific Hwy S.  
Des Moines  
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

### July 17, 2001

Guest: King County  
Assessor Scott Noble  
Federal Way Library  
848 S. 320th St.  
Federal Way  
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

### July 31, 2001

Guest: King County  
Sheriff Dave Reichert  
Federal Way Senior Center  
4016 S. 352nd St, Auburn  
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

### September 2001

Guest: King County  
Prosecutor Norm Maleng  
Date and Place to be  
Determined  
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

## Hylebos Creek and Watershed is Local Ecological Microcosm

The Hylebos Creek is one of our region's most significant natural resources. The Hylebos watershed once supported thousands of coho and chum salmon, and hundreds of chinook and sea-run cutthroat trout.

Today, remnant populations of all species survive in the Hylebos watershed with coho continuing to spawn in all tributaries.

Public efforts to expand the West Hylebos Wetlands State Park in Federal Way are moving forward. Between 1996 and 2000, nearly \$60,000 of special projects appropriations have gone to specific projects in the Hylebos watershed.

southern border. Separate funding components provide \$15,000 for watershed planning and coordination, and \$75,000 for the Hylebos Stream Team (a public education program operated by the Friends of the Hylebos Wetlands).



*Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer (right) actively participates in salmon habitat restoration with youth at Hylebos creek.*



*Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer is the current Chair of the Metropolitan King County Council.*

Even though a sizable portion of the Hylebos watershed is located in King County, the Stream Team and Friends of the Hylebos were the only education or public outreach programs which addressed this portion of the county before January of this year. I have addressed the salmon recovery needs of the Hylebos through county allocations. In King County's 2001 budget there is \$225,000 for park-related activities. The largest share of the money, \$135,000, is for buying salmon habitat beyond the park's

There is tremendous momentum behind salmon recovery efforts in the Hylebos watershed. Several local groups, including Friends of the West Hylebos, Rainier Audubon Society, and The Spring Valley Homeowners have contributed to the effort. This strong public support in combination with existing land ownership patterns lends the Hylebos to a variety of protection tools, including the King County Public Benefits Rating Program which provides tax relief to citizens demonstrating sustainable wetland or forest stewardship on their property.

# Hylebos Creek *continued*

Much of the upper watershed and stream corridor is protected by wetland and riparian zoning regulations designated by the City of Federal Way. Storm-water management facilities constructed in the last six years have brought the watershed's peak flows under control preventing flooding and sedimentation that degrade salmon spawning habitat. Several channel and stream bank stabilization projects, including King County projects on the East Branch of Hylebos in unincorporated King County, have dramatically contributed to salmon habitat enhancement efforts in the watershed.

As past Chairman of the Washington State Senate parks and Recreation Committee, I worked for the creation of the the West Hylebos Wetlands State Park in the 1980s after residents Francis and Ilene Marcxx donated 23.5 acres of their land to the state, and fought for its preservation. Since the creation of the park a combination of local, county and state funding have maintained and enhanced the recreational, habitat and educational value of the park. The passive park features a boardwalk with wonderful interpretive signage that carries visitors through a vast network of wetlands. Eventually, the Friends of the Hylebos Wetlands hope to add at least 70 acres to the 60-acre park, which is between South 348th and South 356th streets.

Due to the high level of development in the Hylebos Watershed, acquisition of salmon habitat and elimination of point source pollution are the first priorities. If you know of pollution sources on the Hylebos or of property available for purchase, please contact Dan Smith of the Surface Water Management Division of Federal Way at (253) 661-4074.

The Interurban Trail through Milton, and land owned by Puget Sound Energy are the last remaining stretches of continuously forested habitat along the East Branch of the Hylebos. I have promoted culvert removals and restoration projects along this last remaining section of habitat.

Park connectivity is one of my top priorities in the upcoming years. A system of boulevards and trails that connect our parks and green-spaces will enhance our recreational opportunities, and provide a transportation alternative to local commuters.

The Hylebos Watershed is a great example of how the local community can positively affect the recovery of salmon by using local volunteers and uniting all local jurisdictions and business. The Hylebos Creek stands as a unique example of successful salmon recovery efforts in a densely populated urban area. If you would like to get involved with your local salmon recovery efforts with the Friends of the Hylebos call Chris Carrel at (253) 874-8270.



**Councilmember  
Pete  
von Reichbauer**

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